

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, RO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN VIEWS ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE

BUCHAREST 7265

1. AMBASSADOR NEAGU, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION IN THE ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN 31ST UNGA, HAS GIVEN US ON DECEMBER 7 THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF ARAFAT'S DECEMBER 5-7 VISIT TO BUCHAREST AND PROSPECTS FOR RECONVENING THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. THESE VIEWS WERE OFFERED IN THE COURSE OF A BROADER DISCUSSION ON UN MATTERS WITH A MIDDLE LEVEL USUN OFFICER, AND IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE NOT PROVIDED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM BUCHAREST.

2. NEAGU SAID THAT HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN THE GOR WHO SPOKE WITH ARAFAT BELIEVE THAT HE NOW WAS PREPARED: (A) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE; AND (B) TO ACCEPT A PALESTINIAN STATE COMPOSED OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP. THE ROMANIANS BELIEVE HIS VISITS TO BELGRADE AND BUCHAREST INDICATE HIS READINESS TO SEEK A MODERATE POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. THEY FURTHER BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN WESTERN INTEREST TO DEAL WITH AND STRENGTHEN ARAFAT VIS-A-VIS HIS MORE RADICAL RIVALS IN THE PLO.

3. AS REGARDS THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE,
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THE ROMANIANS BELIEVE THAT RECENT EGYPTIAN AND ISARELI

STATEMENTS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY INDICATE THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT MOMENT TO TRY TO BRING THIS ABOUT. IN THE ROMANIAN VIEW, DIFFERING ARAB AND ISRAELI VIEWS ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE CONFERENCE ARE NOT AN INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIER. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE WELL-KNOWN DIFFERING STAND OF THE TWO SIDES ON THE ISSUE OF PARTICIPATION, THE ONLY WAY TO RESUME THE CONFERENCE IS BY THE ADOPTION OF A TWO-STAGE APPROACH. IN THE FIRST STAGE ONLY THE ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS WOULD TAKE PART IN THE RECONVENED CONFERENCE. THE PARTICIPANTS THEN WOULD WORK OUT A FORMULA PERMITTING THE INCLUSION OF A PALESTINIAN DELEGATION IN THE NEXT STAGE.

4. FINALLY, NEAGU SAID, THE ROMANIANS BELIEVE THAT THE US CAN PLAY A DECISIVE ROLE IN THESE MATTERS. THE US IS IN A POSITION TO TRY TO ACT AS A BROKER FOR THE TWO-STAGE APPROACH DESCRIBED ABOVE, AND TO SET IN MOTION A PROCESS LEADING TO A PEACEFUL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

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